

# DIVISION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

## DCS BULLETIN

January, 2001

### DCS "De-lamping" Efforts Result in Savings

As part of renovation projects, institutions often upgrade lighting. The replacement of aging fluorescent lights with newer energy-efficient lights often results in big savings from reduced energy costs, as well as ongoing maintenance savings.

DCS's capitol offices, like those of many agencies, takes space in which usage evolved over many years. In some areas, larger offices were subdivided into smaller offices. Other areas which may have served several individual work stations, now serve one.

In addition, several years ago more efficient lighting had been installed, usually by retrofitting the ballasts and lamps in older ceiling fixtures on a one-for-one basis. In other words, wherever a lamp used to be, one of the new lamps were. Some areas were glaringly overlit.

DCS has been fortunate to have available the in-house services of State Energy Engineer Darin Scherr. Scherr is a professional engineer and certified energy manager.

Scherr took on the DCS offices as a case study, and went from one work station to the next and looked at the light levels at each one.

He used a light meter which measures the illuminance (light level), in units referred to footcandles. Lighting for office activity should be a higher level than, say, a corridor or storage area.

What he found was that most offices were overlit when compared to recommended levels.

Too much lighting in the workplace can lead to eyestrain, head-

aches, and interfere with office productivity.

Removing unneeded lamps can result in significant dollar savings, Scherr pointed out. He notes that removing just 10 excess lamps (bulbs) from modern fixtures would result in approximately \$50 savings over a year (assumes T8/electronic ballasts, \$0.06 blended cost and burned for 11 hours a day).

He emphasizes that he's not talking about working in dark workplaces, with dim gloomy lighting. "Proper lighting levels are an important part of a worker's environment," he said.

Scherr says that state facilities interested in evaluating their lighting, should contact him. In some cases complex remodeling work may be required.

### Rauschenberger DCS Director

In mid-December, Governor John Hoeven named Ron Rauschenberger to be the Director of the Division of Community Services.

Rauschenberger succeeds Dina Butcher in that position.

Rauschenberger owns a Kenmare clothing store, and is chairman of the board of directors of



the State Development Fund, which provides state aid to businesses.

Rauschenberger says he intends to take some time to familiarize himself with the varied functions DCS serves, and doesn't expect immediate or dramatic changes that will impact the division's subgrantees.

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## Renaissance Zones - A Work In Progress

We now have five cities with a Renaissance Zone - Fargo, West Fargo, Casselton, Valley City, and Jamestown - and each is now in the process of learning how to make the most out of this potentially valuable community development tool.

In the eyes of many observers this program started out as a big city program, but the first fully approved zone project is in Valley City, and the second is in Casselton.

We are truly watching the birth and discovery of a community development tool that, if used properly, can create a rebirth of activity in both our small and large cities. The first step is for each community to recognize the value in local planning and the need to become proactive in creating their own future. We won't lie to you. It means a lot of work and dealing over time with a lot of "bureaucratic" accountability. Remember, however, we are talking about tax exemptions and credits that will affect both the state and local tax revenues, so we need to make sure that they are used by each city consistent with the overall community development plans and for the benefit of the entire city, not just individual taxpayers.

It appears that the most effective way to participate in this program is to enlist the support and participation of both public and private sector people who know the community and have a shared vision for its future. City government involvement is essential for program design and management, and to assure that projects benefit everyone. The city is also the source of verifying the correct configuration of blocks, and this has proven to be no easy task. A city must have a current comprehensive or strategic plan that clearly describes the overall plans of the city, so that the Renaissance Zone Development Plan can describe how a proposed zone fits with the city's overall plans. Finally, it is crucial to keep the public informed so that they fully understand what the Renaissance Zone includes, what the benefits can be, and how the zone works in approving projects, so that local issues about tax benefits being approved won't create internal conflicts.

Since this is such a new program, every day brings new challenges as the local zone authorities deal

with projects and interpret the program and tax guidelines. Issues are popping up that no one could have conceived when developing the program. To address these issues, we have added new policies, provided new explanations, developed new procedures, etc.



To keep everyone up to date with these, we are relying on the DCS website. As enough changes are made, we update the entire

program. To date, three updates have been made, the latest dated September 26, 2000. Very shortly a fourth update will be published and a change be made to the tax guidelines as well.

The DCS site for the Renaissance Zone is [www.state.nd.dcs/comdev/renzone.html](http://www.state.nd.dcs/comdev/renzone.html). Here you can access the latest version of the Program Guidelines and the Tax Guidelines. In addition, there will soon be a link to the North Dakota State Historical Society in order to access guidance when dealing with any historical buildings that are part of a zone project.

## 2001 Housing Conference

The theme of this year's conference is Housing Challenges and Opportunities. We will learn about challenges to homeownership affordability, fair housing, new regulations, housing needs studies, Native American issues and Housing Trust Funds, but we will also learn about the opportunities that await each of us in those same areas.

2001 Housing Conference  
Challenges & Opportunities

For more information, please contact Karen Schawn Holman at the North Dakota Housing

Finance Agency at 328-8056.

The conference will be January 17 & 18 at the Seven Seas Inn & Conference Center in Mandan. It is sure to be two great days.

## 20 Year Service Award



James R. Boyd, Manager  
Governmental Services at DCS

## State Energy Efficiency Programs Combat Higher Energy Costs

Experts are predicting higher heating bills this winter, and that means North Dakota's state energy efficiency programs may be attracting some well-deserved attention, says Kim Christianson, the energy program manager at the Division of Community Services (DCS).

"Twenty years ago, government was responding to rapidly escalating fuel prices when a number of energy conservation programs were initiated. Since that time, energy prices settled into a more moderate range for many years," Christianson said. "As a result, many people regarded energy efficiency efforts as being less important."

"Recent price jumps of both natural gas and petroleum products are a sobering reminder of the immediate benefits of energy efficiency activities," he said. "You notice when it hits you in the pocketbook."

Since the late '70s, North Dakota state government has maintained several core programs, primarily funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, which have promoted energy efficiency and renewable energy development. Those energy efficiency programs are administratively housed within DCS.

A cornerstone of these efforts is the State Energy Program, an annually revised program which addresses energy efficiency in a variety of end-use sectors, including residential, commercial/industrial, and transportation. In addition, the State's funds for the low-income Weatherization Program, operated through regional community action agencies, flows through DCS. DCS also has administered a number of

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programs which have promoted renewable energy development, energy construction codes, energy efficiency in state facilities, the installation of highly efficient residential furnaces, and energy efficiency projects in schools and hospitals.

"While the higher energy costs will have an immediate economic impact on all North Dakotans," Christianson said, "they will also provide an incentive for all of us to reevaluate energy efficiency opportunities."

"Additionally, the higher petroleum costs will make accelerated exploration of domestic oil supplies economically more viable," he said, pointing to reduced drilling activity over the past years in the oil patch. "In the long run, though, the answer is not to simply increase production," he said. "With petroleum products, we're dealing with a finite resource, and one which our nation consumes twice as much as it produces."

"Much of modern industry is built upon the use of petrochemicals, and as developing nations require more and more of the world's limited petroleum resources, price pressures will inevitably occur."

The increased prices will spur an increased interest in controlling utility bills as a means of reducing operating costs of homes, businesses, and government institutions, Christianson said. It will also spark interest in the development of renewable resources, such as wind, solar and biomass.

"The opportunities to reduce energy consumption and costs are still there," Christianson said. "We've simply chosen to overlook them because of cheap fuel costs."

## E-Business with DCS

Now Online...

Community Plans:

[www.statend.us/dcs/comdev/plans.html](http://www.statend.us/dcs/comdev/plans.html)

ND Wind Page:

[www.state.nd.us/dcs/energy/ndwind.html](http://www.state.nd.us/dcs/energy/ndwind.html)

Topical Index now available on main page!

Interesting Tidbits about the DCS Web Page:

- ◆ 300 hits per day
- ◆ 10,000 hits per month
- ◆ 800 files downloaded monthly

If you have any questions/concerns regarding the web page contact Darin Scherr at [dscherr@state.nd.us](mailto:dscherr@state.nd.us) or by telephone (701) 328-1022.

**We're on the Web**  
**[www.state.nd.us/dcs/](http://www.state.nd.us/dcs/)**

## North Dakota Planning Association Meeting

The North Dakota Planning Association capped off 2000 with its 27<sup>th</sup> annual conference at the Comfort Inn in Bismarck on October 25-26, 2000. The NDPA is nearly 100 members strong and gaining support. This was an election year for NDPA, with the following officers elected for two year terms: Denise Hendrickson from North Central Planning Council was elected to be President, Steve Miller with Kadrmas Lee and Jackson was elected Vice President, and Barbara Owens with the Division of Community Services was elected for another term as Secretary/Treasurer. Michael Spletto, outgoing president, stated that with the enthusiasm of the membership and the increasing awareness of the importance of planning, NDPA is playing a vital role in North Dakota, both now and in the future.

Hendrickson commented that Planning seems to have been given a new life in North Dakota. "Every

community is realizing that planning is vital to its very survival and not just something large cities do. I'm looking forward to a renewed energy coming from NDPA as we grow in membership and knowledge as the smaller communities become involved," Hendrickson said.

The workshop brought together two forces, the community development specialist and planners. The meeting provided a platform to explore a new potential development tool for the state, and to look at the impact of existing economic development tools in ND. The Center for Community Change, the Division of Community Services, and the Rural Development Council helped sponsor the conference, bringing in Mary Brooks, a housing trust fund expert with the Center.



The first day, Brooks introduced the concept of Housing Trust Funds, how they work and what they can accomplish. The afternoon discussion involved all participants in determining if such a fund would work in ND, possible funding sources and how to go about promoting the idea.

Day two looked at the various "zones" in North Dakota: the Renaissance Zones, Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Community Program, Champion Alliance and the Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP). USDA's Mark Wax introduced this session and gave a background in why these zones were developed. Representatives from each "zone" talked about the development of their zone and the progress made and lessons learned.

## LICSP Going and Growing

The Leadership Initiative for Community Strategic Planning (LICSP) is a public and private partnership which involves citizens in developing a long-term vision related to the viability and quality of life of the community. The Strategic Planning process has been going strong for the past several months. The DCS has funded strategic planning projects that encompass more than 50 communities. Regional planning councils, private consultants, local governments and other nonprofits are all providing facilitation to complete this process. Each is working on its own using this tool to develop a plan that will help direct a community's future. Michael Spletto, Point of Contact for the LICSP, says, "this flexible process

will not only help communities identify where the community wants to go and determine priorities on how to get there, it will also help identify and enhance new leadership in the community."

Another tool that DCS has created is a list of completed community plans on the internet. A community questionnaire was sent out to every city and county in September. The responses have been placed on the DCS home page. This tool will be an asset to communities that are attracting new development. A developer can go to this web page and determine if the community has completed a strategic plan or any other type of plan. Most developments will take place in com-

munities that have established a new future for them and planning is the best way to design that future.

Please go to <http://www.state.nd.us/dcs/comdev/plans.html> and check if your community has submitted information about their planning status. If not, you can update the information on line at that same site.

As Eric Damian Kelly and Barbara Becker state in their book *Community Planning*, "In a democracy, we get the government that we deserve; if a community of citizens chooses not to plan, they will probably get - and certainly deserve - an unplanned future or a future that is planned for them by others."

## August 2000 Point-in-Time Homeless Survey

In July of 2000, the North Dakota Division of Community Services (DCS) and the North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People, Inc., requested the participation of homeless providers, state agencies, and the local nonprofit organizations in a Point-in-Time homeless survey. The survey was completed by all clients at shelters, social service agencies, community action agencies, regional human service agencies, and other local organizations which address homelessness. All clients were given the questionnaire during intake, or any other form of agency contact.

The survey was administered for one day between August 7 and August 18, 2000. This allowed agencies to determine their peak days during weeks which usually produced

maximum contact with homeless clients. The survey was completed by the client, with assistance provided when necessary.

Each administering agency was provided with the federally accepted definition of the term homeless, as well as the definitions for homeless family, and homeless individuals.

All completed surveys were returned to the DCS for processing. Every survey, with the exception of those who stated that their last nights stay was in their own home, are included in the survey results.

The following information is a summary of the survey results giving statewide totals as well as totals for the eight major cities and their surrounding service areas in North Dakota.

### STATEWIDE

1. Total homeless = 591
2. Total males = 202                      Average Age = 40.27
3. Total females = 171                      Average Age = 32.29
4. Children 17 and under (both sexes) = 218
5. Total responses to the question-Where did you stay last night?
  - Shelter = 237
  - Relative/Friend = 211
  - Other = 22
  - Transitional Housing = 84
  - Outdoor/Vehicle = 37
6. Of the 591 Homeless, 46 are veterans.
7. Total responses to the question - Do you or any member of your family (included in survey), experience problems with the following items?...Was this a cause of your homelessness?

#### Problem

#### Cause

Affordable/Safe Housing = 198	Yes = 160
Physical Health = 102	Yes = 45
Mental Health = 100	Yes = 74
Domestic Violence = 66	Yes = 47
Alcohol/Drugs = 97	Yes = 83
HIV/AIDS = 0	Yes = 0
Unemployment/Underemployment = 172	Yes = 144

## Spletto Attends Leadership Workshop

DCS Program Administrator Michael Spletto recently participated in a five-day leadership program last month in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, entitled, "Helping Small Towns Succeed."

"It was great training on encouraging communities to use interaction between various sectors to establish a meaningful strategic plan."

Spletto joined more than 40 other participants from 21 U.S. communities for the 8<sup>th</sup> annual program, presented by the Heartland Center for Leadership Development.

"Helping Small Towns Succeed" is a training program for rural community development specialists who work for local, regional, state or federal agencies or related institutions and have assignments related to building community capacity for sustainable development.

A release from the institute described the program as helping community development professionals learn or refine skills that they can immediately apply in their work with rural leaders, especially in communities where the local economy is undergoing significant

change. Spletto reminds us of the impacts rural depopulation has had, and how the changing economics of agriculture have affected some communities.

The topics covered included dealing with change, mapping community assets, marketing your community, strategic planning, local leadership characteristics, and managing community conflict. The "Helping Small Towns Succeed" program was developed by the Heartland Center, an independent, nonprofit organization. Major funding was provided by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

## State Service Providers Unveil One-stop Web Site

In December, 13 service providers targeting workforce development services launched a web site designed to improve the delivery of client



services. The Customer Resource Information System for North Dakota, [www.crisnd.com](http://www.crisnd.com), is an information warehouse for workforce development program services and contacts. The site lets you search a comprehensive database by type, group or county to find out where can get needed services.

The concept for [crisnd.com](http://crisnd.com) began as a means to simplify case management and reduce duplication of services between similar providers, according to Fraine Zeitler, former director of the North Dakota Workforce Development Council. "In direct response to the Workforce Investment Act, former Governor

Schafer requested that a one-stop delivery system be implemented in the state to provide customized, responsive and effective workforce development services. [Crisnd.com](http://Crisnd.com) is a critical link for this system."

"This web site illustrates again how government can improve and simplify services to people through the effective use of technology," Schafer said. "It allows different agencies to work together to present cohesive services such as workforce development. I'm very pleased to add this web site to our state's online services."

The 13 partners that submit service information to [crisnd.com](http://crisnd.com) include: AARP Senior Employment Program, Burdick Job Corps Center, Dept. of Human Services, Dept. of

Public Instruction, Division of Community Services, Green Thumb, Inc., Job Service ND, Motivation, Education and Training, Inc., (MET, Inc.), North Dakota University Systems, ND Workforce Development Council, State Board for Vocational and Technical Education, Veterans Employment and Training Services, and Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

"We are excited about what clients, case workers and the general public will be able to discover at [crisnd.com](http://crisnd.com)," Zeitler said. "This web site is another step toward streamlining services and putting the system to work for our customers, instead of expecting our customers to work to understand the system."

For more information about [crisnd.com](http://crisnd.com), contact the Workforce Development Council at 701-328-5345.

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